NINE MONTHS TO IMPLEMENT CM/ECF - HENCE THE NAME . . .



Bob E. Filer* says, "Don't let CM/ECF scare you!

CM/ECF Project Team

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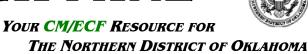
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Visit us on the web at www.oknd.uscourts.gov

*Bob E. Filer is the Official 2003-2004 Computer Spokesmodel for CM/ECF

THE BACK NINE



Message from the CM/ECF Project Team

Here in the Northern District we've spent several months promoting CM/ECF and touting the benefits of this *new* technology. However, did you know that out of 193 District and Bankruptcy courts, 123 *already* use CM/ECF or will be implementing it by next spring? That must mean there are a few experts out

there; so, we scoured some of the district and bankruptcy courts' websites for opinions about CM/ECF from the most qualified source—practitioners who use the system. It turns out that there were a few attorneys who had something to say about CM/ECF – imagine that!

How Will Your Day Change with CM/ECF?

This past summer, attorneys, paralegals and legal assistants from different cities in Nebraska participated in a focus group discussion that was held to determine the impact of CM/ECF on the way that they do their jobs. Listed below are some of the participants' responses to various questions.

How has your job changed with CM/ECF?

- Moved office to home
- Documents are more accurate because not fighting the deadline
- Happier office
- Don't worry about mail delays
- · Only printing documents as needed

What are the advantages and disadvantages of CM/ECF?

- Advantage: ability to create a document and send it with no need for support
- Disadvantage: sharing scanners in office
- Advantage: dramatic postage savings
- Disadvantage: extending workday staff is staying longer
- Advantage: office files are more complete
 not worried any longer about who has file-stamped copy

How has your time shifted since CM/ECF?

- No time spent on travel
- Spending more time on legal research asking paralegals to research more cases because documents are available online
- Time spent on clerical activities has shifted to case management activities
- Quality of life has increased can leave work to spend time with family
- Eliminated the problem associated with non-billable clerical work

Ouotes from the Experts

An attorney who e-files wrote as a guest columnist for "Electronic Filing News," the District of Nebraska's CM/ECF newsletter, "My impression is that the [CM/ECF] system works, and it works well. A document prepared in any word processing format can be filed using the required PDF format. The Federal District Court electronic filing system is a look at the future. In the final analysis, the future is now."

When asked if CM/ECF is a good thing, a bankruptcy attorney in the Northern District of Iowa said, "Attorneys are here to serve their clients, and we can provide better service to our clients using CM/ECF."

Some of the first electronic filers in Tacoma, Washington offered some insight on how to make e-filing a success: "They maintain consistent communication with the court regarding ECF procedures and updates. They also ensure that their staff is well trained. Their tips? Invest in a good DSL line if it's available, and use multiple email addresses to target specific support staff."

Bob E. Filer's Top 9 List

Reasons for Reading the Newsletter

- 9. You get to read the Top Nine list.
- 8. You'll be "in the know" about the latest E-filing gossip.
- 7. It'll make time go by faster while you're waiting to tee off.
- 6. You get to check out Bob E. Filer's new look each month.
- 5. It's only one page.
- 4. You'll learn something new about CM/ECF . . . we promise.
- 3. It's free.
- 2. You'll know what everyone is talking about next spring.
- 1. It will only be available for nine months!